



King County

Green River Flooding **ARE YOU READY?**

Green River Valley agriculture

Because of flood-storage capacity limits at a federal flood-control dam in the upper Green River Valley, farmers and agricultural landowners in the valley below the dam face a higher risk of flooding now than at any time in the past four and a half decades. If you have other questions about flooding and farming in the Green River Valley, please contact Karen Kinney at 206-263-6429 or karen.kinney@kingcounty.gov.

What steps should I take to prepare my farm for potential flooding?

First, you should consider purchasing flood insurance. Most typical home and business insurance policies don't cover losses from flooding, so flood insurance is an important consideration. Visit the National Flood Insurance Program Web site, www.fema.gov/business/nfip/qanda.shtm, for more information. Make sure you include your agricultural buildings such as barns, sheds and garages.

Next, you should sign up to receive updated information:

King County Flood Warning Information

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/flooding/warning-system.aspx>

This Web page provides information about the Flood Warning Center, river gage data and more.

King County Road Alert

www.kingcounty.gov/roadalert; 206-296-8100 (24/7 helpline)

Sign up to get road alerts via email or text message, or look at current road closures in unincorporated King County.

Regional Public Information Network (RPIN)

www.rpin.org

One-stop resources for news alerts from more than 75 government, transportation, utility, health and emergency response agencies serving citizens in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

What should I do for my pets and animals to be prepared?

Pets, livestock and other farm animals should be immunized prior to the wet season. Consult your local veterinarian to determine the appropriate immunizations for your animals. This offers protection should your animals come into contact with flood waters or other animals at central shelter locations.

Strive to have at least five days of supplies for your animals, including feed, water, medicine, bedding and equipment. Keep in mind that well pumps may not operate during a flood event, and that flood water may not be suitable for animal consumption.

Where will livestock be sheltered?



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Plans are under way to shelter livestock and farm animals at the Enumclaw Expo Center, formerly the King County Fairgrounds. You are encouraged to look for additional shelter options at private farms or facilities.

King County is working on a shelter/storage/housing database that will connect citizens outside the flood area that have room to store equipment or animals, with citizens in the floodplain. For more information about the central livestock shelter locations, contact the Washington State Animal Response Team, www.washingtonsart.org or animalresponseteam@gmail.com.

What should I do with my farm equipment? Can I take it somewhere?

Damaged equipment can be expensive to fix. You need to develop a plan for all your equipment so that you can resume your normal activities soon after the flood threat has passed:

- What is the most expensive, heaviest, most likely to be damaged if it gets covered with dirty water and silt?
- What equipment is used all winter; what equipment could be stored off-site on higher ground?

How do I prepare my supplies and tools?

It's important to organize your supplies and tools into new locations, well before any potential flooding. Locate them well above the level where flooding could reach them, and make sure they are located where you can get to them if there is flooding.

We have property outside the flood area, and would like to help. What can we do?

Property owners who live outside the flood area can help by allowing potentially affected farmers with equipment storage or temporary animal boarding. King County is developing a list of landowners outside the Green River Valley who might be able to help. If you would like to help, or would like more information, contact Karen Kinney at 206-263-6429, karen.kinney@kingcounty.gov; or Rick Reinlasoder, 206-263-6566, rick.reinlasoder@kingcounty.gov. If you are interested in keeping your equipment or animals at a private farm or facility, please contact Rick Reinlasoder.

I have some typical hazardous materials on my property, including fertilizers, cleaners, fuel, lubricants and other items. What should I do with them?

Call the Business Waste Line, 206-263-8899, for information on disposal of pesticides and other agriculture chemicals.

If I have high ground on my property, can I stay put? Should I plan to move my animals and equipment there?

You need to be realistic about the possibility of waiting out a flood on high ground. Is the ground really high enough for you, your livestock and equipment/materials? What will happen if the land isn't out of harm's way – can you get to your family, livestock and equipment to higher ground at the last moment? Will you be able to feed your animals?

I've got fences on my property. Is there anything I should be aware of?

Floodwaters and debris may compromise the integrity of your standard and electric fences. Keep this in mind, if you have animals.